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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 1x 1986 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 26 totaled an estimated 16.9 billion ton-miles, 1.6 percent below the corresponding week of 1985, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 17 weeks of 1986 was an estimated 288.6 billion ton-miles, up 0.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 26 totaled 383,595, down 2.0 percent from last year, and 0.1 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.6 percent in the West, but down 5.2 percent in the East, and 2.7 percent in the South.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 16 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand were up by 1,152 cars (8.1 percent). Coal loadings were down by 2,455 cars (2.1 percent) and nonmetallic minerals showed a decrease of 2,405 cars (19.8 percent). Ten of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 19 totaled 99,982 trailers and/or containers, 15.4 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 16 weeks of the year was 1,517,673 trailers and/or containers, up 13.4 percent from 1985.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/26/86:

	Loadings in Week ended April 26, 1986		Change from Corresponding Week 1985			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	17,001	D	1,731	9.2	D	901	5.0
Other farm products	2,909	D	717	19.8	I	47	1.6
Metallic ores	17,094	I	713	4.4	I	560	3.4
Coal	112,483	D	2,455	2.1	I	404	0.4
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,297	I	1,152	8.1	I	1,136	8.0
Nonmetallic minerals	9,760	D	2,405	19.8	D	418	4.1
Grain mill products	10,173	I	142	1.4	I	265	2.7
Food and kindred products	11,122	D	484	4.2	D	16	0.1
Primary forest products	10,133	D	1,058	9.5	I	14	0.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,450	D	7	0.1	D	23	0.3
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,352	D	1,920	13.5	I	118	1.0
Chemicals and allied products	25,795	D	1,307	4.8	D	752	2.8
Petroleum products	4,727	I	126	2.7	I	13	0.3
Stone, clay and glass products	10,552	D	809	7.1	D	202	1.9
Coke	4,854	D	822	14.5	D	325	6.3
Metals and products	8,600	D	1,276	12.9	I	366	4.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,867	D	928	3.9	D	43	0.2
Waste and scrap materials	8,538	D	757	8.1	D	369	4.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	3,182	D	3,241	50.5	D	2,305	42.0
All other carloads	67,599	I	9,787	16.9	I	2,227	3.4
LCL traffic	107	D	18	14.4	D	127	54.3
Total Cars Loaded	383,595	D	8,015	2.0	D	331	0.1

Corresponding week of 1985 391,610

	1986	1985	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (17 weeks)	6,322,263	6,319,627	I 0.0

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):

16 Weeks ended April 19	271.6	270.9	I 0.3
Week ended April 26	16.9	17.2	D 1.6
17 weeks cumulative	288.6	288.1	I 0.2

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